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Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 18 September 1997, at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Udovenko ..... (President of the General Assembly)

Contents

Organization of the work of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/BUR/52/1)

Section IV. Adoption of the agenda (*continued*)

Item 160 (Towards a culture of peace)

1. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) drew attention to resolution 51/101, entitled "Culture of peace", in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at the current session the elements for a draft provisional declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace. In order to focus attention on the question, he requested the inclusion of a separate item, entitled "Towards a culture of peace", in the agenda of the General Assembly. That proposal, in which Bangladesh was joined by Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Namibia, Nicaragua, Panama, the Philippines, Senegal and Venezuela, was contained in document A/52/191.

2. **The Chairman** announced that the representatives of Senegal, Nicaragua and the Philippines had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

3. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ka (Senegal), Mr. Pagagua Fernández (Nicaragua) and Mr. Mabilangan (Philippines) took places at the Committee table.*

4. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) emphasized that peace was not only the absence of war in the conventional sense and said that physical and moral violence in every country had become social phenomena which the international community could no longer afford to overlook without running the risk of destabilization in the long term. The UNESCO initiative must be seen as a contribution to the international community's effort to establish lasting peace and security through education, science and culture. A culture of peace implied that violence would be renounced. In the quest to attain that ideal, no initiative could be considered excessive. Hence his delegation supported without reservation the request for the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Towards a culture of peace".

5. **Mr. Pagagua Fernández** (Nicaragua) said that Nicaragua, after years of being ravaged by civil war, had been able to demonstrate that it had renounced violence by electing two successive democratic governments and had set its sights resolutely on the establishment of a genuine culture of peace. As a sponsor of the draft resolution on the subject, his delegation requested the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-second session of an item entitled "Towards a culture of peace".

6. **Mr. Mabilangan** (Philippines) said that he fully endorsed the statements of the preceding speakers. The question of a culture of peace was of major importance, as it affected all aspects of political and socio-economic life. Peace could not become a way of life for the peoples of the world until the climate was propitious. Accordingly, the programmes and activities which would be put in place with that end in view would concern a broad range of issues which would require a global and integrated approach. The question should be the subject of a separate item in the agenda of the General Assembly and should be considered in plenary meeting.

7. **The Chairman** announced that the representative of Guatemala had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Martini Herrera (Guatemala) took a place at the Committee table.*

10. **Mr. Martini Herrera** (Guatemala), speaking also on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, said that he was convinced of the need to promote a culture of peace and, hence, of the importance of including an item entitled "Towards a culture of peace" in the agenda of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly. It was a matter of record that the peace process under way in Central America had been born of the convictions and actions of the peoples of the region. At the preceding session of the Assembly, the countries of Central America had co-sponsored a resolution entitled "Culture of peace", which had been considered by the Third Committee. In addition to calling for a declaration and a programme of action on the subject, the Assembly had decided to consider the question as a separate item of its agenda. Accordingly, the Central American delegations associated themselves with those delegations which had called for the inclusion of an item on the subject in the agenda of the fifty-second session of the Assembly and its consideration in plenary meeting.

11. **The Chairman** announced that the representative of El Salvador had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

12. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. García González (El Salvador) took a place at the Committee table.*

13. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador) said that El Salvador, which had suffered the horrors of war for more than 10 years, could bear witness to the benefits and progress which had become accessible to its people since the end of the conflict thanks to the concept of culture of peace. His delegation was convinced that peace-building required a multidimensional and consistent approach and that human development could not flourish except in a genuine culture of peace, which should be lasting and should be part of the international community's efforts to promote and uphold human rights. His delegation therefore fully supported the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly.

14. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 160 in the agenda.*

Item 161 (United Nations reform: measures and proposals)

15. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 161 in the agenda.*

Item 162 (Observer status for the Andean Community in the General Assembly)

16. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 162 in the agenda.*

Section V. Allocation of items

Paragraph 46

17. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 46 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/52/1), which stated that the allocation of items was based on the pattern adopted by the General Assembly for those items in previous years. The General Committee might wish to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 4 of its decision 34/401, paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 39/88 B, paragraph 6 of the annex to its resolution 45/45 and paragraphs 2 and 5 (b) and (d) of annex I to its resolution 48/264 concerning the allocation and clustering of items.

18. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the above-mentioned paragraphs.*

Paragraph 47

19. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 47 of document A/BUR/52/1, which listed the items of the draft agenda that had not been considered previously by the General Assembly.

20. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should pronounce itself on the recommendation that it should make regarding the allocation of those items recommended for inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-second session.

21. *It was so decided.*

Item 157 (Draft guiding principles for international negotiations)

22. **The Chairman** noted that the Committee had decided to recommend the inclusion of that item as a sub-item of item 148. The sponsor had proposed that it should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.

23. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 157 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee as a sub-item of item 148.*

Item 158 (Amendment to article 13 of the statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal)

24. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 158 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Item 160 (Towards a culture of peace)

25. The sponsors proposed that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

26. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 160 should be considered in plenary meeting.*

Item 162 (Observer status for the Andean Community in the General Assembly)

27. The sponsors proposed that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

28. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 162 should be considered in plenary meeting.*

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Paragraph 48 (Item 10 of the draft agenda)

29. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Secretary-General should make a brief presentation of his annual report on Monday, 22 September, as the first item in the morning prior to the opening of the general debate.*

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Paragraph 49 (Item 12 of the draft agenda)

30. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the various parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council should be allocated in*

accordance with the suggestions made by the Secretary-General.

Decolonization

Paragraph 50 (Item 18 of the draft agenda)

31. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to specific Territories should be referred to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), thus enabling the General Assembly to deal in plenary meeting with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole.*

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Paragraph 51 (Item 48 of the draft agenda)

32. *In view of the procedure followed at previous sessions, the Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should consider the item directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.*

Question of Cyprus

Paragraph 52 (Item 61 of the draft agenda)

33. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated at an appropriate time during the session.*

General and complete disarmament

Paragraph 53 (Item 71 of the draft agenda)

34. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) dealing with the subject matter of item 71 should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of the item.*

Advancement of women

Paragraph 54 (Item 107 of the draft agenda)

35. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly, pursuant to paragraph 16 of the annex to its resolution 39/125, that the annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 101 of the draft agenda (Operational activities for development).*

Joint Inspection Unit

Paragraph 55 (Item 120 of the draft agenda)

36. *The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that item 120 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with subject matters assigned to other Main Committees would be referred also to those Committees.*

Paragraph 56 (Allocation of the items of the draft agenda)

Items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting

37. **Mr. Akbar** (Pakistan) said that the reform issue and consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals on the subject were of great importance and would no doubt dominate the Assembly's general debate. Although it touched on different areas of United Nations activity, the reform issue was also of a global nature and should therefore be considered in plenary meeting. However, with regard to the implications of considering the matter in plenary meeting, clarification was required with respect to the type of mechanism that was to be entrusted with considering the question in depth and in an appropriate manner. There were several options: the issue could be considered in plenary meeting, by a committee of the whole, or by a working group; another solution would be to allocate the various elements to the Main Committees, on the basis of their respective competence, as had been proposed in the case of agenda item 12. The matter had been discussed at meetings of the Group of 77 and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Delegations had felt that it would be advisable to review the Secretary-General's reform proposals in detail after the general debate in plenary meeting.

38. The Committee needed to decide whether the measures in question should be considered as an indivisible whole or as a set of proposals each of which could be considered separately. Furthermore, all delegations, including those of small countries, must be able to participate in the exercise in a meaningful manner. Consideration of the reform issue in plenary meeting must in no way prejudge the type of mechanism that would ultimately be used. Should it prove necessary to consider the mechanism in question in greater depth, the Bureau could meet again following the general debate to take up the question once more, in accordance with rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

39. **Mr. Rosenstock** (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the proposal to consider agenda item 161 in plenary meeting; since that item concerned a

set of closely interrelated issues, it required an integrated approach.

40. **Mr. Tello** (Mexico) said that it was logical that agenda item 161 should be considered in plenary meeting. However, he believed, as the representative of Pakistan did, that the decision that was to be taken in plenary meeting following the general debate must not be prejudged, since the mechanism that was to be used for consideration of the Secretary-General's reform proposals was what was at issue.

41. **Mr. Tomka** (Slovakia) said that agenda item 161 was of a general nature and involved different committees. It was therefore logical that it should be considered in plenary meeting, in accordance with Assembly resolution 48/264.

42. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation fully endorsed the comments by the delegation of Pakistan. The reforms proposed under the item in question were both extensive and complex and should be considered by various General Assembly bodies. Pakistan's proposals must therefore be given very careful consideration.

43. **Mr. Nuñez-Mosquera** (Cuba) said that his delegation shared the doubts voiced by the delegation of Pakistan. The Bureau should allocate the question of reform to the plenary Assembly, and not prejudge the type of mechanism to be used subsequently.

44. *The Bureau decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting, including items 160 to 162, but excluding item 161 (Question of Cyprus), should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.*

Items proposed for consideration by the First Committee

45. *The Bureau decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the First Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

46. *The Bureau decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Fourth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee, bearing in mind its decisions on the items entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India" and "Question of East Timor".*

Items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee

47. *The Bureau decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee

48. *The Bureau decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee

49. *The Bureau decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee

50. *The Bureau decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum, including item 158 and the additional sub-item under item 148, should be allocated to that Committee.*

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.